



NEWS RELEASE

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Council Seeks Public Input on Restoration Plan

Ventura, CA – The McGrath State Beach Area Trustee Council is inviting the public to comment on its draft plan to restore natural resources that were injured by an oil spill in the mid-1990's. The Trustee Council will host an open house to acquaint the public with the draft plan, entitled "McGrath State Beach Area Berry Petroleum Oil Spill Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment," on Wednesday, September 8, from 6:30pm to 8pm, at the California State Parks' Channel Coast District Office at San Buenaventura State Beach in Ventura.

The restoration plan contains alternatives for restoring and protecting wildlife and habitats that were damaged when an oil pipeline ruptured in December 1993, spilling more than 2,000 barrels of crude oil. Damage from the spill and cleanup involved injuries to birds, fish, invertebrates, vegetation and habitats in and around McGrath Lake, a small coastal lake between Ventura and Oxnard. The draft plan also outlines criteria for evaluating the restoration alternatives and addresses the potential environmental effects of each.

Written comments on the plan will be accepted from August 21st through October 4th. The Trustee Council will use the written comments to modify the draft plan, where appropriate, and to assist it in the final selection of appropriate projects that can be successfully implemented. In addition to commenting on the draft plan, the public is invited to present ideas or proposals for projects that are not contained in the plan and would meet the plan's mandated objectives. Written comments should be sent to California State Parks, Channel Coast District, 911 San Pedro Street, Ventura, CA 93001, Attn: Valerie Watt or e-mailed to vwatt@parks.ca.gov.

Copies of the draft plan are available for viewing at the Foster Library in Ventura and at the Oxnard City Library. The document may also be viewed at California State Parks' Channel Coast District Office during regular business hours, 8am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The office is located at 911 San Pedro Street in Ventura, inside San Buenaventura State Beach.

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The McGrath State Beach Area Trustee Council was formed as part of a court settlement following the 1993 oil spill, to plan and implement projects to restore or replace the natural resources, or resource services, injured by the spill. The Trustee Council is composed of representatives of California State Parks, California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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